(d) how the proposed move would help to create a level-playing field between the public sector airlines and the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to promote entry of new airlines in slots in accordance with IATA guidelines, it has been decided to create a 'slot pool' of available slots after allocating slots to airlines on the basis of historical rights at the time of coordination of slots for the new season. 50% of left over slots are to be allocated to new entrants airlines. In case, new entrants are less than 50%, then the same could be considered for allocation to other airlines.

(c) The Airport Operator/Slot Allocation Committee will deal with allocation of slots at Greenfield airports and AAI airports, respectively.

(d) The slot allocation policy ensures level playing field for public and private sector as it is non-discriminatory and the airport operator is expected to implement the slot allocation policy in fair and equitable manner.

Upgradation of Rajasansi Airport

111. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to upgrade the Rajasansi Amritsar Airport into an ultra-modern airport;

(b) whether it is a fact that the work thereon has been held up, if so, the reasons therefor and at what stage it has been held up; and

(c) the progress made thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In one of the project review meetings, it was pointed out that for better aesthetics, ambience and overall view to present modern day design dynamism of aviation industry, the proposed design should be improved. Some of the activities in central concourse and departure terminal were temporarily suspended for 2 to 3 months. A new design of the terminal has been developed internally by Airports Authority of India (AAI). The construction work has since been resumed and is likely to be completed by October, 2005. However, a portion of the Terminal Building is proposed

to be commissioned by end of August, 2005 to provide immediate relief to the arriving passengers.

(c) The project is likely to be completed by October, 2005.

Strengthening of AI

112. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to come out with an Initial Public Offering (IPO) for Air India in order to strengthen Air India and make it capable of competing with other International Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which Government propose to make the IPO public;

(d) the sectors in which Air India propose to operate after acquisition of 50 Boeing planes; and

(e) the time by which these Boeings will be acquired fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The proposal of Air India to go in for Initial Public Offering is under consideration of the Government.

(d) After acquisition of 50 Boeing aircraft, Air India proposes to operate flights to USA, Canada, Europe, UK, Japan, Hongkong, Bangkok, China, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Australasia, Africa, Gulf Countries, SAARC Countries etc.

(e) No firm delivery schedule can be given at this stage.

Expansion of air services in Uttar Pradesh

†113. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding expansion and improvement of air services in view of the vast potential of development of industries and tourism in Uttar Pradesh; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.